

AUSTRALIAN COLEOPTERA.

PART VI.

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Family ELATERIDAE.

Subfamily CONODERINAE.

Conoderus arbitrarius, n. sp.

Elongate; moderately thick; subopaque; upper surface dark brown with the head and the anterior margin of the pronotum slightly diluted with red, the under surface mostly reddish-brown, antennae and mouth parts ferruginous, legs testaceous; rather densely clothed with short, sericeous, depressed, cineraceous pubescence. Head flattened in forepart, with a very small carina on the vertex, anterior margin rounded, with densely arranged, small rugose punctures; antennae just extending beyond apex of posterior angles of the pronotum, the first and second joints small, subglobular and about equal, the both combined a little more than half the length of the fourth, with a fine carina extending the whole length. Scutellum elongate and obtusely pointed behind. Pronotum longer than wide, lightly and evenly convex, the longitudinal median line almost obsolete, the lateral margins from base to near anterior margin almost imperceptibly, rectilinearly converging, and then lightly, roundly contracted, lateral margins of anterior angles curved towards underneath, the posterior angles long, acute, produced backwards but scarcely diverging, bicarinate, the inside carina equally as strong as the outer but only half its length; with densely arranged small round punctures. Elytra across shoulders slightly narrower than pronotum across posterior angles, sides almost parallel from behind shoulders to near the middle then gradually, roundly attenuated to apex which is briefly, obliquely truncated at the sutural angles; punctate-striate, the punctures in striae moderately deep, elongate and contiguous, the interstices relatively wide, flat and minutely, subrugosely punctured. The prosternum at the sides lightly furrowed through the deflexion of the lateral margins of the pronotum. Length, 12.5-13.5 mm.; width, 3.5-4 mm.

North-Western Australia: Kimberley (J. S. Clark; Dr. E. Mjöberg). Type in author's collection.

Near *C. brunnipes* Schwarz, from which it can be distinguished by its more uniform colour and with the legs testaceous.

Subfamily CORYMBITINAE.

Poemnites nitidicollis, n. sp.

Elongate; nitid; black, antennae reddish-brown to blackish, elytra testaceous (with exception of apical part which is black), legs fulvous; moderately densely clothed with short, depressed, cineraceous pubescence. Head flattened in forepart with closely arranged, moderately large, subrugose punctures; antennae with ♂ extending beyond the base of the pronotum, that of the ♀ barely reaching the posterior angles of same, the second joint very small, the third about twice as long as the preceding and about the same length as the fourth, feebly serrated from the latter joint with the apical one simple. Pronotum slightly longer than wide, rather strongly and evenly convex, with a very feebly marked longitudinal median furrow, sides from near the base almost straight and parallel up to the anterior

third then gradually roundly contracted, posterior angles acute, produced backwards and slightly divergent, carina short and not strongly marked; moderately densely covered with sharply-defined, round punctures. Scutellum subtriangular and acutely pointed posteriorly. Elytra across shoulders barely as wide as pronotum across posterior angles and a little more than twice the length of the latter, rounded at the humeral angles with the sides almost straight and parallel to near middle then strongly attenuated to apex, depressed in the sutural region; punctate-striate, the punctures in striae relatively large, round and contiguous, interstices narrow and subrugose. Length, 6.7-5 mm.; width, 1.5-2 mm.

Queensland: Cairns (F. P. Dodd); Herberton, Malanda (Dr. E. Mjöberg). Type in South Australian Museum.

This is a very distinct and pretty species; the blackish part of the elytra is very variable, hardly two specimens being alike, it ranges from the tip of the elytra, with the suture and the lateral margins narrowly infuscated, to the whole of the posterior half being black and in most cases this dark portion is continued upwards for a short distance along the suture and lateral margins. Its nearest ally would be *P. australicus* Cand., from which it may be distinguished by having the whole of the under surface, the posterior angles of the pronotum and the apex of the elytra black.

Subfamily LUDIINAE.

Agonischius aulacoderus, n. sp.

Elongate; narrow; subnitid; dark castaneous with the elytra testaceous, head, antennae and scutellum blackish, parts of pronotum, suture, lateral margins and punctures in striae of elytra more or less infuscated; moderately densely clothed with a pale, sericeous pubescence. Head lightly convex with a small, shallow, interocular depression, with densely arranged, very small, round punctures; antennae reaching back to about the middle of elytra, moderately strongly serrated (♂), second joint very small, joints three to eleven about equal in length, the apical one tubular and narrower at the base than at the apex. Pronotum longer than wide, evenly convex, slightly wider at the base than at the apex, lateral margins almost straight, the longitudinal median furrow distinctly visible along the whole length, posterior angles slightly divergent, produced backwards and acute, sharply carinate; densely covered with very small, round punctures. Scutellum elongate, sides curved, posterior acute, minutely punctured. Elytra cross shoulders about the width of pronotum across posterior angles and about thrice the length of the latter, slightly depressed near the suture, sides straight and gradually contracted to near the posterior fourth then somewhat more abruptly contracted to apex which is rounded, rather finely punctate-striate, the punctures in striae round and not crowded, the interstices narrow, lightly convex, finely and minutely punctured. Length, 8 mm.; width, 2 mm.

New South Wales: (E. W. Ferguson); Queensland: Glen Lamington (Dr. E. Mjöberg). Type in author's collection.

The forepart of the head is more or less reddish, the base and region of the longitudinal furrow of the pronotum is infuscated and the base of the elytra is bright testaceous. Its nearest congener is *A. mjobergi* Elston, from which it may be distinguished by the black head and antennae, infuscated pronotum, the latter furrowed along the whole of its length and the clothing of same longer and of a silky appearance.

Family CLERIDAE.

Subfamily CLERINAE.

Cleromorpha albohirta, n. sp.

Convex; subnitid; black with the two basal joints of the antennae and trochanters reddish, legs in parts more or less diluted with red. Clothed with

long (almost tomentose) whitish hairs. Head lightly convex on top and depressed in the forepart; with rather coarse, densely arranged, subrugose punctures; antennae moderately slender, apical joint reaching back to about the base of pronotum, first joint large, the second about half the length of the third which is not quite as long as the fourth and fifth combined, nine and ten are enlarged and obconical in shape, the eleventh elongate and attenuated at the apex. Pronotum wider than long, sides evenly curved with the widest distance apart near the middle, anterior and posterior margins straight; with closely arranged, moderately large and deep punctures. Scutellum very small and round. Elytra across shoulders wider than base of pronotum and about thrice its length, sides from behind shoulders gradually, almost imperceptibly, dilated to near the posterior fourth and then more or less abruptly, roundly contracted to apex; punctures closely arranged in rows, rather large, deep and subreticulate, becoming smaller and more shallow towards apex. Length, 3.5-4 mm.

Victoria: Melbourne (E. Fischer); South Australia: Murray River (A. H. Elston). Type in author's collection.

This and the following species more or less resemble the genotype, *C. novemguttata* Westw., in all the salient characteristics with the exception of the antennae, in the former these appendages are slightly longer, more slender and only the last three joints enlarged so as to form a club, whereas in the latter the club is distinctly composed of four joints.

***Cleromorpha ruficollis*, n. sp.**

Convex; subnitid; black, except basal joint of antennae which is more or less reddish, prothorax reddish testaceous, legs testaceous with the tarsi slightly infuscated. Moderately sparsely clothed with long, white hairs. Head almost flat and densely covered with small, rugose punctures; antennae moderately slender with the apical joint reaching back to near the base of the pronotum, the second joint a little less than half the size of the first and bead-like in shape, the third joint about twice as long as the second and slender, the fourth much smaller than the third, joints four to eight about equal in length with each other, nine and ten enlarged and subconical, the apical joint about as long as the ninth and tenth combined, wide at the base and attenuated towards the apex. Pronotum wider than long, lightly and evenly convex, the anterior and posterior margins about equal in length, the lateral margins abruptly, roundly dilated near the middle; with closely arranged, moderately large, deep, round punctures. Scutellum very minute and round. Elytra across shoulders distinctly wider than base of pronotum, sides almost straight and parallel to beyond the middle then roundly contracted to apex; with large, deep, seriate punctures, becoming smaller posteriorly and almost obsolete near the apex. Length, 3.5 mm.

South Australia: Quorn (A. H. Elston). Type in author's collection.

In general outline this species closely resembles *C. albohirta* Elston, but may be easily distinguished by its colour.

***Odontophlogistus similis*, n. sp.**

Elongate; subnitid; black, the clypeus, antennae, palpi, eyes, abdomen and tarsi reddish; clothed with long, griseous pubescence, more densely arranged on the head and sides of pronotum. Head with two moderately large interocular foveae, the antennae not quite reaching the base of pronotum, the apical joint elongate and tapering to a point; with small, sparsely arranged, indistinct punctures. Pronotum much wider than long, sides roundly dilated at the middle, surface uneven with shallow depressions; with shallow, sparsely arranged, indistinct punctures. Scutellum small and subcircular. Elytra across shoulders

much wider than base of pronotum and about three and one half times as long as the latter, shoulders rounded and protuberant, sides slightly curved and roundly contracted on the posterior third; punctate-striate, the punctures in striae large, deep and subreticulate, the striae narrow and costate. Length, 8.5 mm.; width, 3 mm.

New South Wales: Culcairn. Type in author's collection.

In general appearance it closely resembles *O. rubriventris* Elston, but may be easily distinguished from that species by the colour of the antennae which is ferruginous and longer, the apical joint of which is more elongate and drawn out into a point; the punctures on the head and pronotum of the present species are barely visible, whereas on the former species they are deeply pitted.

ELEALE AENEA Elston.

A large specimen of this species, measuring 12.5 mm. in length, was taken near Melbourne by Mr. E. Fischer.

ELEALE CHLORIS Chev.

This species varies in colour from bright emerald green to green with brassy reflections; the antennae, mouth parts and tibiae are testaceous, the femora are mostly of the same colour as the body or darker and the tibiae are more or less infuscated; the apical joint of the antennae is very widely and deeply emarginated.

Subfamily HYDNOCERINAE.

ALLELIDEA VIRIDIS Blackb.

Mr. F. E. Wilson has sent me two female specimens of the above species which he swept from rushes growing in a swamp at Altona, Victoria. These specimens agree very well with the author's description except for the colour which, instead of being "viridi-aenea," is a nitid piceous black.

Subfamily ENOPLIINAE.

Tenerus tumidicollis, n. sp.

Elongate; subnitid, head and pronotum reddish testaceous, the latter with a large, transverse spot on the anterior margin black, elytra testaceous with four large black spots, two basal and two apical, antennae, mandibles and legs black; moderately densely clothed with rather long, semi-erect pubescence, golden on the pale parts and black on the dark parts. Under surface testaceous with the metasternum black. Head with two small, shallow, interocular depressions, with closely (but not densely) arranged small, shallow punctures; antennae robust, the second joint small and subglobular, the third quite three times as long as the second, the following strongly serrated except the apical which is acuminate at its apex. Pronotum about as long as wide, the anterior margin rounded and very narrowly recurved near the middle, the lateral margins curved and from near the middle gradually, roundly contracted to the base, in the middle near the base with a rather large, shining tumidity; somewhat more densely punctured than the head, the punctures similar to those on the latter. Scutellum small and almost circular. Elytra across shoulders barely wider than pronotum at base and about thrice the length of the latter, sides almost straight and parallel to near apex then roundly contracted, with two fine costae on each clytron, one close to the suture and extending from behind the scutellum to nearly the whole length, the other beginning at the base—about midway between the suture and the humeral angle—and

barely reaching the middle, these are joined together at the base by a short, curved third costa; densely, finely and subrugosely punctured. Length, 8.5 mm.

Queensland: Brisbane (H. Pottinger). Type in author's collection.

This species should be easily recognised by its distinct colour markings; the two black basal spots on the elytra touch the lateral margins but not the suture, the two apical ones touch both the suture and the lateral margins.

Tenerus parvus, n. sp.

Elongate; opaque; black, pronotum testaceous except lateral and anterior margins which are black; densely covered with very small, black pubescence except on pale part of pronotum where it is golden. Head with a shallow depression near the base of each antenna, with densely arranged, minute punctures which are concealed by the clothing; antennae long and robust, second joint small and globular, the third only a little longer than the preceding, the following strongly serrated except the apical one which is elongate and acutely pointed. Pronotum about as long as wide, the lateral margins lightly and evenly rounded, with a small tumidity at the base in the middle and an indistinct one on each side of the middle on the posterior third and situated about half way between the middle and the lateral margin; with punctures similar to those on the head and concealed by the clothing. Scutellum very small and circular. Elytra across shoulders barely wider than pronotum at base and thrice as long as the latter, sides almost straight and parallel to near apex then roundly contracted, without distinct costae, with densely arranged, minute punctures which are more or less concealed by the clothing. Length, 4.5 mm.

Queensland: Cairns. Type in author's collection.

Distinguished from all other Australian members of the genus by its small size; the sides of the head near the eyes are lightly diluted with yellow.

Subfamily CORYNETINAE.

Pylus okei, n. sp.

Subnitid; dark castaneous, antennae and legs a little paler; moderately clothed with semi-erect dark pubescence. Surface of head even, densely covered with small, deep, subrugose punctures; antennae reaching to base of pronotum, apical joint almost circular. Pronotum about as long as wide, abruptly and angularly dilated on the sides at the middle, with a moderately large, round, deep depression in the middle near the anterior margin and two much less distinct ones near the base; densely and evenly punctured with rather large, deep punctures. Scutellum minute and rounded on the sides. Elytra across shoulders much wider than pronotum at base and about thrice the length of the latter, humeral angles almost square, sides almost straight and parallel to near apex then somewhat abruptly roundly contracted; closely covered with large, deep seriate punctures becoming a little smaller posteriorly. Length, 4.5 mm.

Victoria: Gypsum (C. Oke). Type in author's collection.

A much smaller species than *P. fatuus* Newm., and can be readily distinguished from it by the head not having an interocular fovea, with densely arranged and asperate punctures; the pronotum densely and subrugosely punctured, the surface less uneven, in *fatuus* the pronotum (particularly the anterior portion) is densely covered with minute punctures and the middle and sides interspersed with large, scattered punctures forming a double punctuation, the present species is densely and uniformly covered with large punctures. This species is at once distinguished from *P. pallipes* MacL., *inter alia*, by the apical joint of the antennae being almost circular and not drawn out into a spine at the apex, also the head and pronotum are more densely and coarsely punctured.

Pylusopsis, n. gen.

Body elongate, subdepressed. Head more or less rectangular and almost truncate in front; eyes prominent, moderately coarsely granulated, emarginate in front; mandibles moderately prominent and curved inwards; maxillary and labial palpi moderately long, the apical joint of each is similar in shape and size, elongate, narrow at the base and becoming widely dilated to apex where it is obliquely truncated; antennae robust, sometimes reaching back to base of pronotum, the first joint large and curved, the second small and almost globular, the third long and subcylindrical, four to eight about equal in length and subglobular, nine to eleven widely dilated and forming a loose jointed club. Prothorax about as long as wide, narrower at the base than at apex, with a moderately strong protuberance on each lateral margin near the middle. Scutellum very small. Elytra at base wider than pronotum, at base straight and subangular at the shoulders, strongly punctured only on the anterior half; apex of each elytron individually rounded and simple. Legs rather long and robust, posterior femora not reaching apex of abdomen, tarsi with only four visible joints, the first three joints with pads on the under surface, apical joint elongate and dilated towards apex; claws simple.

The granulation of the eyes is much finer than in *Pylus* and yet coarser than that of *Parapylus*, the sculpture of the pronotum and elytra is quite different from either; the formation of the apical joint of the maxillary palpi should at once distinguish it from either of these genera.

Pylusopsis chrysocome, n. sp.

Elongate; subdepressed; black with the elytra, abdomen and a narrow band at apex of pronotum ferruginous, the antennae black with the apical joint white and the tips of the apical joints of the black palpi also whitish, with a black spot on each elytron just in front of the middle, the under surface of the tarsi more or less testaceous; rather densely clothed in parts with long, shaggy pubescence, golden on the pale parts and black on the dark portion. Head with the surface even, densely and subrugosely punctured; antennae reaching to base of pronotum, second joint small and subglobular, the third almost as long as the fourth and fifth combined, joints nine to eleven dilated and forming a loose jointed club, the apical joint barely longer than wide and rounded. Pronotum about as long as wide, the basal margin somewhat narrower than the apical one, sides strongly dilated at the middle and forming a protuberance on each side, with three nitid protuberances on the disc, two behind the anterior margin—one on each side of the middle—the third is an elongate one in front of the base at the middle, the two in front joined to the posterior one by a more or less interrupted elevated, nitid line forming a Y; densely covered with small, deep punctures. Scutellum very small and more or less rounded. Elytra at base a little wider than pronotum, the base almost truncate, humeral angles slightly rounded, sides almost straight and parallel to near middle then roundly contracted to apex, with two large, slightly raised elongate protuberances at the base, one on each side of the suture, the anterior half with large, round punctures more or less arranged in rows, the posterior half densely, minutely (almost imperceptibly) punctured. Length, 5-6 mm.

Victoria: Belgrave; Gembrook (C. Oke); Millgrove (F. E. Wilson).